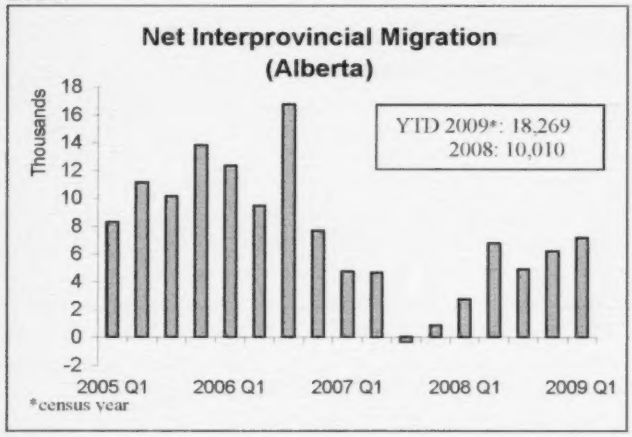
Migration & Population

Alberta still a popular destination…

Despite the economic downturn, Alberta continues to be a popular destination among Canadian and international migrants. The province's net interprovincial migration was 7,144 people in the first quarter of 2009, more than double the Q1 2008 level, and the largest net gain in the country. Interprovincial migrants mainly came from Ontario (3,546) and British Columbia (855). International immigration was also strong, as Alberta gained 4,175 international migrants during the first quarter of 2009.



As of April 1 2009, Alberta's population is estimated at 3,653,840, a year-over-year increase of 2.7%. Alberta's population growth remains the highest among provinces, and more than double the national rate of 1.2%.

EI Benficiaries

Employment insurance claims still rising…

The number of Albertans receiving regular employment insurance benefits was 48,310 (seasonally adjusted) in April, a month-over-month jump of 16.3%. While the increase is relatively high, Alberta also had a very low number of beneficiaries prior to the current downturn. Nationally, EI claims appear to be levelling off, as the number of Canadians receiving regular benefits increased by 2.7% to 697,030 in April.

Canadian Dollar (US¢/CS)

June 26, 2009	86.72
June 19, 2009	88.60
2009-10 YTD	86.04

WTI Oil US$/bbl

June 25, 2009	$ 70.23
June 18, 2009	$ 71.37
2009-10 YTD	$ 59.27

Nymex Natural Gas CS/MMBtu *

Near-month Contract

June 26, 2009	$ 4.39
June 19, 2009	$ 4.68

* Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Average Weekly Earnings

Workers in Alberta earning less…

Average weekly earnings in the province fell for the second consecutive month in April, dropping by 2.5% month-over-month to $946.66 (seasonally adjusted). The decline was mainly due to falling earnings in the manufacturing (-9.6%) and management (-14.8%) sectors. In spite of the decrease, Alberta's average weekly earnings remain the hightest among provinces by a large margin. Canadian average weekly earnings were $820.53 in April, a month-over-month decrease of 0.5%.

Farm Product Price Index

Livestock prices rise, grain prices fall…

Alberta farmers earned more for their products in April as the Farm Product Price Index rose by 1.3% month-over-month, to its highest level since October 2008. The price of livestock rose (2.0%), while crop prices fell by 2.0%.

Global Economy

U.S. consumer spending, durable goods rise…

Consumer spending in the United States rose 0.3% in May, a result of temporary fiscal stimulus measures. Also, factory orders for durable goods defied expectations by rising 1.8% in May, another hint of stabilization in the U.S. economy. The economic news helped lift oil prices, which closed above US$70 on Thursday.

Alberta

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS

June 26, 2009

Overall Economy		2007	2008	2009YTD*	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Real GDP (in 2002 $billions)		187.5	187.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
% change		3.1	-0.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nominal GDP ($ billions)		258.9	291.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
% change		8.1	12.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Population[1] (000's) (level)	NEW!	3,511	3,585	3,654	--	3,632	--	--	3,654	--
% change		2.6	2.1	2.6	--	2.6	--	--	2.7	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton[1] (level)	NEW!	33,809	10,010	18,269	--	6,198	--	--	7,144	--
Net International Migration[1] (level)	NEW!	16,136	19,283	13,179	--	4,097	--	--	4,175	--
Net Non-permanent Residents[1] (level)		13,539	17,890	17,557	--	4,870	--	--	4,626	--
Labour Market										
Employment (000's)		1,959	2,013	1,982	2,023	2,026	2,002	1,987	1,993	1,993
% change		4.7	2.8	-0.3	1.5	1.2	0.2	-1.0	-0.9	-1.1
Unemployment Rate (%)		3.5	3.6	6.1	4.2	4.4	5.4	5.8	6.0	6.6
Average Hourly Wage Rate		6.0	5.7	4.7	4.1	6.2	4.5	3.6	4.3	5.0
Average Weekly Earnings[2]	NEW!	5.8	6.0	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.4	5.6	3.2	--
Labour Income[3]		11.3	8.4	3.6	6.8	4.5	3.6	2.7	--	--
Price Indices										
Consumer Price Index		5.0	3.1	0.6	1.9	1.2	2.1	0.9	-0.7	-0.7
Excluding food and energy		4.9	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.5	2.0	1.4	1.1	1.7
Non-Res. Const. Cost Index[4] (quarterly)		17.3	13.2	-1.0	8.8 (Q4)	--	--	-1.0(Q1)	--	--
Farm Product Price Index		14.3	11.1	-6.3	-4.7	-6.2	-7.9	-4.7	-6.2	--
Crops	NEW!	41.4	26.3	-24.3	-20.7	-22.8	-25.7	-23.1	-25.6	--
Livestock		0.7	2.1	14.0	13.5	13.7	12.4	17.5	12.4	--
Household Sector										
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)		48.1	29.0	13	20.0	15.7	12.6	11.9	12.4	12.4
% change		-2.1	-39.7	-64.5	-48.3	-53.0	-59.4	-75.1	4.2	-61.3
New Housing Price Index		22.5	0.7	-9.8	-6.1	-8.4	-9.6	-10.5	-10.7	--
Edmonton		32.1	1.0	-11.8	-8.2	-10.4	-12.2	-12.3	-12.5	--
Calgary		16.2	0.6	-7.8	-4.3	-6.5	-7.1	-8.7	-8.8	--
MLS Average Resale Prices		24.3	-1.4	-9.1	-7.4	-10.0	-9.2	-10.4	-6.8	--
Edmonton		34.3	-2.0	-7.7	-5.7	-4.5	-8.7	-10.1	-7.4	--
Calgary		18.7	-2.9	-10.9	-9.4	-11.4	-10.8	-11.3	-10.1	--
Retail Sales		9.3	-0.1	-11.0	-7.7	-6.4	-13.4	-13.8	-10.1	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales		3.3	-7.3	-28.5	-23.6	-22.5	-35.4	-31.9	-24.4	--
Business Sector										
Public and Private Investment[5]		9.1	3.6	-14.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mining and oil and gas[5]		0.3	-1.4	-28.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rigs Drilling		-35.2	-2.1	-43.6	-10.2	-24.4	-43.9	-60.8	-42.0	-39.2
Goods Exports (customs based)		5.3	33.2	-28.7	-7.9	-27.3	-30.2	--	--	--
Energy		4.4	40.9	-33.2	-7.9	-31.5	-35.1	--	--	--
Agriculture		9.8	28.6	0.0	16.8	-3.4	3.6	--	--	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)		11.9	15.2	--	8.5 (Q4)	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments		1.9	6.9	-16.3	-8.2	-13.4	-14.6	-13.8	-23.0	--
Wholesale Trade		5.0	10.9	-4.7	13.6	4.5	-6.1	-4.2	-11.7	--
Building Permits		13.4	-16.5	-48.6	-29.1	-52.5	-67.5	-29.8	-41.4	--
Residential		10.7	-31.5	-55.0	-37.2	-67.0	-72.5	30.5	-44.0	--
Non-residential		17.1	3.7	-42.1	-21.4	-40.2	-62.9	-19.2	-38.7	--

Government of Alberta
Finance and Enterprise

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30). The April population estimate is also the 2009 year-to-date value.

[2] The average weekly earnings series was extensively revised on March 31, 2009 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins

[3] Total income earning in Alberta including wages and salaries, and supplementary income.

[4] Average of Calgary and Edmonton.

[5] 2009 based on initial investment intentions, 2008 preliminary actuals, and 2007 actuals

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association) and Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors).

Alberta

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, BY PROVINCE

		Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Conference Board Forecast (Spring 2009)												
Real GDP Growth												
2008 (actuals, Statistics Canada)		***0.5%***	-0.1%	0.9%	2.0%	-0.0%	1.0%	-0.4%	2.4%	4.4%	**-0.2%**	-0.3%
2009		***-1.7%***	-5.0%	-0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	-0.9%	-2.4%	1.0%	0.2%	**-2.4%**	-1.8%
2010		***2.5%***	1.0%	1.7%	1.5%	2.2%	1.8%	2.5%	2.4%	3.2%	**2.9%**	3.3%
Population (As of April 1, 2009)												
Population	NEW:	**33,592,686**	508,726	140,638	939,475	748,866	7,799,372	13,014,018	1,217,163	1,027,092	**3,653,840**	4,435,344
Annual Growth Rate[a]		***1.23%***	0.20%	1.19%	0.18%	0.26%	0.89%	1.02%	1.16%	1.49%	**2.71%**	1.70%
Net Interprovincial Migration												
2008 Census Year (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008)			1,299	42	-117	-325	-12,399	-16,522	-503	8,067	**10,010**	11,458
1st Quarter (January 1, 2009 to March 31, 2009)	NEW:		98	-66	-357	61	-2,016	-5,015	-181	545	**7,144**	-16
Employment												
Level Change (000s)[b]		**-337.5**	-13.2	-2.3	2.8	1.7	-14.7	-244.5	2.9	12.6	**-21.8**	-60.8
Percent Change[b]		***-2.0%***	-5.8%	-3.1%	0.6%	0.5%	-0.4%	-3.6%	0.5%	2.4%	**-1.1%**	-2.6%
Unemployment Rate, 2009 avg (SA)		***7.9***	14.8	12.2	8.9	8.9	8.2	8.7	4.8	4.7	**5.6**	7.0
Participation Rate, 2009 avg (SA)		***67.4***	58.9	67.6	64.5	64.7	65.4	67.5	69.3	70.5	**74.6**	65.9
Average Weekly Earnings												
April 2009	NEW:	**820.53**	799.20	697.50	733.09	740.11	760.76	848.63	764.32	795.35	**946.66**	790.13
Y/Y Percent Increase[c]		***1.4%***	4.7%	6.2%	3.3%	2.3%	0.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.2%	**3.2%**	-0.3%
2009 Wage Settlements											**1.5%**	
CPI Inflation												
April Annual		**0.1%**	0.6%	-1.1%	-1.1%	-0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	0.8%	0.7%	**-0.7%**	0.1%
Excluding Shelter		**0.2%**	0.7%	0.6%	-0.8%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	-0.1%	**0.6%**	0.5%
Housing Starts (000s)												
SAAR May 2009		**128.4**	2.7	0.8	3.0	4.0	42.2	43.8	3.3	4.9	**12.4**	11.2
Retail Sales												
Percent Change[d]		**-6.7%**	0.1%	0.5%	-1.8%	-3.1%	-5.0%	-7.3%	-5.1%	-5.3%	**-10.1%**	-8.2%
2009 YTD Retail Sales Growth		**-6.2%**	-0.5%	-1.8%	-4.0%	-2.4%	-3.6%	-5.7%	-4.7%	-3.6%	**-11.0%**	-10.0%
Manufacturing Shipments												
Percent Change[d]		**-20.4%**	-70.5%	6.3%	-24.1%	-37.4%	-14.4%	-21.4%	-6.2%	-8.8%	**-23.0%**	-23.4%

a. Over the past 12 months
b. May 2009 Y/Y change, unadjusted for seasonal effects
c. Updated to January 2009
d. April 2009 Y/Y change, unadjusted for seasonal effects
SA-Seasonally Adjusted, SAAR-Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate
Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Conference Board of Canada